

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 AGR-03 RSC-01 AID-05 EB-03 EUR-10 COME-00

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, WFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (NOVEMBER 5-16, 1974)

1. IN STATEMENT BEFORE FINANCE COMMITTEE (ON WHICH UNITED STATES MEMBER SERVES PRIVATE CAPACITY) FAO DG BOERMA ANNOUNCED MEETING WITH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO THURSDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 10. A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY. HE STATED PRESS DEMANDING KNOW WHAT HE THINKS OF WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND WHAT REMEDIES HE RECOMMENDS. BOERMA EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CROP SITUATION IN NEAR FUTURE AND SAID HE FEARED US CROP REPORT EXPECTED THURSDAY WOULD SHOW NO IMPROVEMENT.

2. DG SAID HE INTENDS SAY MINIMUM WORLDWIDE FOOD NEEDS CANNOT BE MET BY FREE WORLD MARKET. HE INTENDS CITE NO FIGURES AND WILL ATTEMPT PREVENT ALARM BUT MUST RESPOND. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY WELCOMED RECENT UNITED STATES ACTION WITH REGARD EXPORTS PLANNED FOR SOVIET UNION AND FELT "SOME SORT" EXPORT CONTROLS OR ARRANGEMENTS NECESSARY IN ORDER HAVE MINIMUM SUPPLIES AVAILABLE TO

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NEEDY COUNTRIES.

3. DIRECTOR-GENERAL REPORTED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH OUTCOME PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. SAID HE HAS TAKEN LOW PROFILE BY DESIGN BUT BOERMA MUST NOW SPEAK OUT. THE WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY PROPOSED BY SYG MAREI WAS NOT SUPPORTED. BOERMA SAID HE WILL PROPOSE MAJOR EXPORTING AND IMPORTING COUNTRIES GET TOGETHER AT EARLY DATE TO DISCUSS A FOOD RESERVE UNDERTAKING. (IN RESPONSE QUESTION HE SAID HE INTENDS CALL QUIET MEETING DURING EARLY DAYS OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WHEN MINISTERS PRESENT IN ROME).

4. BOERMA SAID HE FEELS NEW INSTITUTIONS ARE NO GUARANTEE OF NEW RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CALLED ATTENTION FACT OIL-RICH COUNTRIES WERE NOT FORTHCOMING DURING PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING. HE SAID HE FELT FAO, WHICH HAS MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES IN FOOD FIELD, SHOULD BE USED RATHER THAN CREATE NEW AGENCIES. IF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE, HE THOUGHT PRESENT FAO INVESTMENT CENTER COULD BE EXPANDED. EVEN IF NEW RESOURCES DO NOT DEVELOP, FAO COULD STILL ESTABLISH A CONSULTATIVE ADVISORY GROUP, MODIFY ITS INVESTMENT CENTER, STRENGTHEN TECHNICAL AREAS AND MAKE GREATER USE OF REGIONAL OFFICES.

5. DG REPORTED FAO COULD CREATE A WORLD FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL, WHICH MIGHT BE AN UP-GRADING OF PRESENT COUNCIL. NEW BODY COULD HAVE SPECIAL ANNUAL SESSION AT WHICH ONLY FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY WERE HANDLED. SUCH SESSION COULD LEGALLY INCLUDE NON-MEMBERS AND MIGHT IN FACT BE ASKED REPORT DIRECTLY ECOSOC AND GA.

6. FOR SECOND TIME IN WHAT WAS RELATIVELY SHORT STATEMENT BOERMA RETURNED TO FACT HE MUST NOW PRESENT FAO VIEWS. HE CLAIMED ORGANIZATION HAS DONE PRACTICALLY ALL WFC PREPARATORY WORK AND CAN AND SHOULD PLAY A GREATER ROLE WITH REGARD WORLD FOOD SITUATION.

7. WITH FURTHER REFERENCE WFC, BOERMA SAID CONSULTATION RATHER THAN CONTESTATION AT RECENT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WAS HOPEFUL SIGN. HE WAS DISTRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE LENGTHY PREPARATORY COMMITTEE DEBATES GOVERNMENTS STILL LACK CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON WHICH TO ACT IN FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE.

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